

REMARKS

Claim 2 has been canceled and Claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 have been amended in the foregoing amendment to clarify certain aspects of the claimed invention. Claims 1 and 3-14 are currently pending in this application. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants believe that the rejections should be withdrawn and that the Claims 1 and 3-14 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-14 Are Patentable over Schloss

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,692,125 to Schloss et al. ("Schloss"). For at least the following reasons, the Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Claim 1

The foregoing amendment to Claim 1 clarifies that the tool executing section accesses a predetermined storage device and executes working tools required for the respective work items, on the basis of a tool executing file in which is written tool information necessary when the application program is used to conduct the respective work items if the previous works have been finished, and displays "execution commands of working tools and information corresponding to the selected work items by click operation of the respective work steps." Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is described throughout the specification. (*See e.g.*, [0071]-[0074] and Fig. 5).

In the invention as claimed in amended Claim 1, it is possible to easily execute the tools required, because the guide information for a work item is displayed by simply clicking the work item as displayed in the work flow window, and the resulting work guide window includes a button to execute the tools (application software and the like) required for the work item. Additionally, as clarified in amended Claim 1, it is possible to display execution commands of the working tools required for the work items, and the information

corresponding to the selected work items, by the simple click operation of the respective work steps. This allows any engineer, even an inexperienced engineer, to quickly understand the tools required for each step of development. For example, as illustrated in Figure 5 of the present invention, the work guide window W3 is used to display the block selected from the work flow window W2, the guide to the related working, the execution procedures of the necessary tools, and other necessary information. The work guide window W3 also includes an execution button B31 which can be clicked to execute any tools described in the window W3. (Figure 5; [0073]; and [0075]).

Schloss describes a computer-assisted method for scheduling events. Schloss does not disclose or describe a method for scheduling events and executing those events described by the schedule, or displaying execution commands for those events by a simple click operation of the schedule, as recited in amended Claim 1. For example, Schloss describes scheduling events, such as administering medication, but does not describe that the system can display the execution commands that actually cause the events. Instead, the events are executed independently, and execution commands for the events are not displayed. Thus Claim 1 is patentable over Schloss.

Furthermore, Schloss merely discloses a method for making a schedule. Schloss does not disclose making a shared schedule as does the present invention. Applicants' invention as claimed provides a "guide to running the tools required" for performing the respective work steps. ([0063]). For example, in the semiconductor device industry, there are a number of semiconductor device development steps in which numerous engineers may participate. The semiconductor device development steps include preparation of circuit designs for the semiconductor device, logic simulation, binding check, preparation of lay out designs, etc. The invention as claimed in Claim 1 includes executing the tools required for the work items and displaying the execution commands of the working tools required for the work items. Thus, the schedule enables all engineers to comprehend a current process because all engineers can view and share the schedule. Schloss does not describe or suggest a shared

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schedule that executes events and displays execution commands, as recited by Claim 1. Thus Claim 1 is patentable over Schloss.

Claims 3-14

Independent Claims 7, 13 and 14 have been similarly amended to clarify the invention and are patentable over Schloss for at least the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 1. Claims 3-6 and 8-12 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claims 1 or 7. Accordingly, Claims 3-6 and 8-12 also should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. This application should now be in condition for allowance, and Applicants solicit a notice to that effect. If there are any issues that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned at 404.685.6799. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,


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